

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Approved: 1/10/24

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Wayne Banks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman  
Dan Wurzbacher, Vice-Chairman  
Sue Romano, Commissioner  
Mark Campbell, Commissioner  
Tom Alexander, Commissioner  
Jim Archibald, Commissioner

Absent:

Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner

Also in Attendance:

Steven Bois, Executive Director  
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk  
Randy White, Town Council Liaison  
Bob Laman, Conservation Commission Liaison

Chairman Banks introduced the two new members of the Harbor Commission, Tom Alexander and Jim Archibald, and they both spoke briefly about their backgrounds.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

**A. November 8, 2023**

Commissioner Romano moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 and Vice-Chairman Wurzbacher seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: 5 ayes and Commissioner Archibald abstained.

**III. Open Forum**

**A. Scheduled Requests to Address**

There were no scheduled requests to address.

#### **B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address**

Carol Cronin of Narragansett Avenue addressed the Commission regarding the new outhaul requirements and asked that the Commission reconsider the minimum length requirement, which she feels was introduced with little warning, and could create problems with boats bumping into each other. She stated the permit holders work together to ensure that such collisions do not happen. She applauds the effort to shorten the wait list but does not feel that restricting boat size is the way to accomplish that. There was some discussion. Ms. Cronin does not want to use the dinghy dock as it is currently configured because she is afraid of damage to her fiberglass boat.

#### **IV. Executive Director and Harbormaster Report – S. Bois**

Executive Director Bois stated the Harbormaster boats are out of the water, winterized, and shrinkwrapped. The floats have been removed from East and West Ferry, and some repairs will be needed. The kayak racks are empty for the winter, although he did confiscate some kayaks, they were returned to their owners. Executive Director Bois stated that he is finalizing the Harbor Management Plan and hopes to meet with some of the Town Council members to go over the changes. It will then be reviewed by the full Town Council and the Town Solicitor, and then it would be opened for public comment. Executive Director Bois stated that moorings for Clark Boatyard and Conanicut Yacht Club have been incorporated into the Online Mooring database so he can get a better handle on mooring inspection compliance. He stated that the Harbor Management Ordinance is still being finalized. He also discussed his plans for the disposal of the Freedom Harbormaster boat and the acquisition of a new vessel, which will be paid for out of existing Harbor funds. There was some discussion about lead time and viewing potential vessels. Executive Director Bois also discussed the possibility of adopting, in the near future, some policies regarding mooring processes that other towns have in place. The restoration of Gould Island is still on the radar – the restoration committee is hoping to get other towns on board with urging DEM to continue their efforts to open it to the public.

#### **V. Year-to-Date Financial Report**

The year-to-date financial report was not available.

#### **VI. Sub-Committee Reports**

##### **A. Budget – S. Romano – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Commissioner Romano had nothing to report at this time.

##### **B. Facilities – W. Banks & J. McCarthy – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Chairman Banks had nothing to report.

##### **C. Mooring Implementation – D. Wurzbacher & M. Campbell – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Vice-Chairman Wurzbacher had nothing to report. Executive Director Bois stated he briefed Chairman Banks and Commissioners Romano and Campbell about how surrounding towns manage moorings.

**D. Gould Island Restoration – W. Banks & M. Campbell – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Chairman Banks had nothing to report and Executive Director Bois discussed Gould Island earlier in the meeting.

**VII. Liaison Reports**

**A. Conservation Commission – B. Laman – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Commissioner Laman had nothing to report.

**B. Town Council – R. White – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Councilor White welcomed Tom Alexander and Jim Archibald to the Commission, and also thanked Executive Director Bois for his continuing efforts to proactively address some of the issues that have been plaguing the town regarding mooring utilization and the Town Council supports those efforts. He would like, however, to keep an open mind and wondered if the changes that are being proposed or have already been implemented accomplishing what they should be? Councilor White does not see any harm in revisiting the changes, and/or make some exceptions where they are appropriate. He stated the points brought up earlier by Ms. Cronin have merit and he spoke to an outhaul person at last month's meeting, Mr. Blanton, who had similar concerns about the minimum/maximum lengths of boats on outhauls.

**VIII. Old Business**

**A. Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Executive Director Bois stated that this item was mistakenly put on the agenda. It was voted on at last month's meeting.

**B. Harbor Management Ordinance – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Executive Director Bois stated he had planned to ask the Commission to vote tonight to send the Harbor Management Ordinance to the Town Council for their approval, but that Commissioner Alexander had suggested some changes to the ordinance. Commissioner Alexander stated that most of the changes were editorial, but that he suggested some policy changes. It was agreed to wait until January to vote on the ordinance.

**C. New York Yacht Club Floating Dock – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Executive Director Bois recommended that the Harbor Commission abandon plans to acquire the floating dock from the New York Yacht Club. The engineering study and cost analysis determined that the dock was not an appropriate fit for use in Jamestown due to the age of the dock and the cost to make it viable. Chairman Banks moved that the Harbor Commission cease all activity regarding the New York Yacht Club dock and Commissioner Campbell seconded. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

**IX. Correspondence**

**A. Letter from William and Mary Brennan regarding Outhaul Occupancy – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Chairman Banks moved to accept the correspondence from William and Mary Brennan and Commissioner Romano seconded. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

**X. New Business**

**A. 2024 Mooring Inspector/Installer Applications – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

A list of the prospective mooring inspectors /installers was provided. There was one new vendor this year, Dive Services Unlimited, and all the applicants provided diver certifications and insurance information. Chairman Banks moved to approve the list and Commissioner Romano seconded. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

**B. Prioritization of Commercial Fishing Activities at Ft. Getty Pier – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Executive Director Bois stated he is asking the Harbor Commission for two things: To prioritize commercial fishing activities such as aquafarmers, lobstermen, and fin fishing, at the Ft. Getty Pier. Commissioner Romano made a motion to prioritize the commercial fishing and aquaculture activities at Ft. Getty Pier. Chairman Banks seconded but stated he would like to see space left available for recreational fishing off the pier, and Executive Director Bois stated there is one spot on which a boat could fit that will be left vacant for use by recreational fishermen. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

Executive Director Bois stated that the other vote he is going to ask for is the addition of one more spot for another vessel at the southernmost spot on the pier where it is shallow at low tide, and would probably not be of interest to rod and reel fishermen. He invited Brad Boehringer, a commercial fisherman who purchased Walrus and Carpenter Oysters this year, to speak about the potential location for a seventh spot for a boat at the pier. Two potential spots exist, spot A, located on the east side of the Ft. Getty pier, and spot B, which is on the west side of the pier. There was much discussion regarding location, exposure to weather, how the vessel would be secured to the pier, and the impact of another boat on the vessels that are already on the pier. The permit offer could be conditional for the first year. There was also discussion of offering the spot with or without space on the pier itself for equipment storage. Vice-Chairman Wurzbacher moved to approve space A as an additional spot for a vessel for one year, initially without any dock storage, but storage could be added at a later time. It would be an outhaul configuration with a mushroom anchor. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion and added it should be a conditional spot, due to the current that runs through there. There was more discussion about equipment storage on the dock. So voted: 5 aye, 1 nay.

**C. Facilities 5-Year Plan Draft – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Executive Director Bois presented a list of projects for repair/replacement at locations around the island that will need to be addressed. There was discussion about priorities and what should be done now that the Harbor Commission had decided not to accept the concrete floating dock from the New York Yacht Club. There are items on the list that will be addressed by the Town Public Works Department but they have been included for informational purposes. It was decided that any references to projects that would be addressed by Public Works would be removed, as well as removing references to the New York Yacht Club dock. Chairman Banks moved to accept the 5-year plan and move forward with it and Vice-Chairman Wurzbacher seconded it. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

**XI. Open Forum – Continued (If Necessary) – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Executive Director Bois addressed the letter sent to the Harbor Commission from William and Mary Brennan regarding the regulation changes to outhauls and stated not all of the statements contained in the letter were completely accurate. There is 120 feet of railing on which to tie up a dinghy, and about half of the cleats were replaced this year, along with most of the bumpers being replaced. There are spots for approximately 22 dinghies at the dinghy dock. There was some discussion, especially about allowing people to be grandfathered in to their outhaul spot if their vessel is larger or smaller than the new length requirements. This will be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

**XII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Banks adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Attest,

  
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Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk